

What's up

Tuesday

AMERICAN RED CROSS: will hold a blood drive from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Veterinary Medicine Complex and at Harrington Tower.

AGGIE ALLIANCE: will hold a Christmas party at 7:30 p.m. in 105 G. Rollie White Coliseum.

EL PASO HOMETOWN CLUB: will meet at 7 p.m. in 108 Harrington.

INTRAMURAL RECREATIONAL SPORTS: entries close for outdoor soccer at 6 p.m. in 159 Read.

WESLEY FOUNDATION: will offer a defensive-driving course at 6 p.m. at the Wesley Foundation.

CIRCLE K: will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 402 Rudder.

COLLEGIATE FFA: will meet at 7:30 p.m. in 208 Scoates.

Wednesday

AGGIE SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY: will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 502 Rudder.

TEXAS STUDENT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION: will have a student-faculty Christmas party at 3 p.m. in the lounge of Harrington Tower.

AMERICAN RED CROSS: will hold a blood drive from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Veterinary Medicine Complex and at Harrington Tower.

TAMU POLO CLUB: will hold a mandatory meeting at 7 p.m. in 407 A-B Rudder.

EUROPE CLUB: will meet at 9 p.m. at the Flying Tomato.

BIG EVENT: will have a mixer with the Traditions Committee at 7 p.m. in the party room of Plantation Oaks Apartments.

MSC LITERARY ARTS: now is accepting submissions for "Litmus." Call 845-1515 for more information.

PARENTS' WEEKEND COMMITTEE: applications for nominating 1987-88 Parents of the Year are available in the Commons, the Sterling C. Evans Library, the Memorial Student Center and the Pavilion.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three working days prior to desired publication date.

Cadets get tryout of dining system as Duncan closes

By Bob Grube
Staff Writer

The eating arrangements for the Corps of Cadets have changed a little but after a one-week trial run, evening chow seems to be running smoothly again.

Because Duncan Dining Hall is being closed for about a year for renovations, the Corps is eating its meals in the Commons and Sbsa dining halls.

While the extra marching time is an inconvenience for the cadets who eat in Sbsa, most don't seem to mind.

Dr. Malon Southerland, assistant vice president for student services and interim commandant of the Corps, says he couldn't have asked for the situation at the dining halls to work out any better.

"It went as well last week as we could've possibly hoped for," Southerland says. "The quality of cooperation between Food Services, the student body and the Corps has been outstanding."

Col. Fred Dollar, director of Food Services, was out of town Monday and was unavailable for comment.

Cadets seem to be enjoying the change too, except for the amount of extra time the march to Sbsa adds to chow time.

David Williams, regiment recruiting officer for the Navy Marine Regiment, says he likes the change because it allows for interaction

between cadets and non-Corps students.

"Since we've been eating at Sbsa," Williams says, "I've been able to eat with my friends from north side for the first time in four years. And the food at breakfast and evening chow is much better than Duncan's."

"But now it takes us almost an hour and a half to eat chow when it only took us about half an hour to eat at Duncan. As it is now, we don't get back to the dorms until about 7:25. Time-wise, it needs to be quicker."

The cadets will not be going to chow in formation until next semester, but will continue to eat individually for the rest of the semester. They will continue eating in uniform this week only.

Supreme Court delays action in Texas case

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Monday ordered Texas authorities to let seven people remain free until it decides whether to act on a contempt appeal stemming from their refusal to stand when a judge entered a courtroom.

The justices could act soon, perhaps next week, on the formal appeal by the seven who contend the contempt citations against them violated religious freedom.

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals last June ruled that the rights of the seven people were not violated.

The state court said, "A direct refusal to rise upon the judge's entrance interrupts the normal proceedings of the court (and) disregards the formality and seriousness of a court's function."

The case resulted from the Port Neches municipal court appearance of Charles Krupps on charges of driving without liability insurance.

Krupps and his friends remained seated on June 13, 1985, when Judge Donald Floyd left the courtroom as court recessed for the day.

The bailiff told Krupps and the others they were required to stand when Floyd entered or left.

The next morning Floyd told the bailiff to inform Krupps and the others they would be held in contempt if they refused to rise when he entered. The judge also said they could remain outside the court until the session began and then come into the room if they chose not to stand for him.

Damage estimate drops in Fort Worth gas explosion

FORT WORTH (AP) — Damage estimates were downgraded Monday as inspectors tried to pinpoint the cause of the blast that destroyed a center of a downtown city block.

City officials released a preliminary damage estimate of \$685,000, down from the \$2 million estimate released Sunday by authorities.

Alton Bostick, coordinator of the Fort Worth-Tarrant County Office of Emergency Management, said the figure released today "could be significantly lower."

Fire investigators may have to remove the debris from two restaurants at the center of the destruction to learn the exact source of the leak that led to the gas buildup and explosion, officials said.

"I don't think in the state that building's in they will ever find out what happened," Bostick said.

No serious injuries were reported from the explosion.

The explosion occurred at 3:30 a.m. and destroyed five businesses.

More than 30 other stores sustained damage.

A more detailed report on the accident will be ready by Friday, and a final report will be written in the next few weeks, Bostick said.

Lone Star Gas Co. spokesman Breck Harris said his company had completed its investigation of the gas lines in the area.

"They were all holding with no leaks," he said.

Lone Star is responsible only for the gas lines running from the mains to the gas meters, Harris said.

"From the gas meters on, the lines are private property and not ours," he said. "And we now know our lines have no leaks."

Harris said Lone Star does not know what caused the explosion.

Fire department spokesman Butch Hall said fire investigators said they were able to make enough of an inspection to be certain the explosion was triggered by gas.

"There's no doubt in anyone's mind," Hall said.

"There was very little fire, the fire extinguished itself, there were no traces of flammable liquids or accelerants," he said.

The task of tracing blame for the explosion is up to insurance investigators unless they ask for assistance from the fire department, Hall said.

Dwarfism doesn't worry woman as long as she finds size 1 shoes

PLANO (AP) — What is it like to be a small person in a tall world?

Vee Ragsdale, 22, of Plano, stands only 4 feet, 10 inches tall. But she doesn't let her height stand in the way of her life.

"I watched a show on television about a little person's club and I couldn't understand why they were all so depressed," Ragsdale said. "They seemed really hostile and asked 'why me, why me, and I thought 'Why not you? What's so terrible? I would rather be 4-foot-4 than 8-foot-4.'"

Ragsdale, in her second year at Richland College, has a double major in English and advertising.

The Texas Rehabilitation Center finances all her schooling, my books and tuition. All I have to do is make something of myself, which is basically what we are all trying to do, isn't it?" she said.

Ragsdale says she does have one concern in common with other "small people" — gaining weight.

"All the girls get to the stage where they say 'fat-I'm fat,' but I was really getting fat. Up until about the eighth grade I was really chubby, now it doesn't sound like much to you, but I was getting to where I weighed 100 pounds. I was a poly-poly," she said.

Ragsdale says she watches what she eats and just stays active to burn calories.

She says another concern that plagues dwarf-sized people is clothing. She wears size 3 or 5 in women's clothing, but girls' clothes don't fit her.

"I wear size 1 in children's shoes, which is great because they are cheaper. The only drawback is that they don't make pumps for little girls. I don't even own a single pair of high heels," she said.

She could have special shoes made by a mold, but the mold alone cost \$500 and the first pair of shoes averages \$200.

Ragsdale has an extension on the pedals in her car, and when she goes shopping, she says she doesn't hesitate to ask someone to reach something on the shelf for her.

And she says she is not insulted by jokes about her height. "If it's funny, it is funny," she said. "No one has ever hurt my feelings or insulted me, so why should I take it as an insult."

Ragsdale says her parents noticed something was wrong when she was about 9 months old.

"My parents would pick me up, and I would cry all the time because it hurt. The bones were too soft," she said. She says she did not notice her own size until she was in the second grade and everybody else kept growing.

"It's just a form of dwarfism. The short bones grow a lot faster pushing on the long bones which makes them bend," she said. "The doctors really don't know why some people are affected this way. My mom didn't drink or take drugs or anything when she was pregnant."

She is part of a normal-sized family. Her parents, Janie Dobbs and Sammy Ragsdale, are of normal height and her brother, Sammy Jr., stands 6-foot-5.

"I have never worried too much about my size," Ragsdale said. "My folks didn't worry too much about it. My mom has always told me to do anything and everything and I have always been involved in school, in the pep squad, the drama club."

She also participated in band and was secretary of the student council and president of the Thespian club.

"I do not feel like I have missed out on anything in high school because of my size. I had a steady (boyfriend), then I wanted to date around. No, I never missed out on anything, although my mom wished I would have," she laughed.

She says she would eventually like to marry and have a family — about four children. Dwarfism doesn't run in her family, but twins do, she says.

PLITT THEATRE THEATRE GUIDE

POST OAK THREE
1500 Harvey Rd. 764-0616

HEARTBREAK RIDGE (R) Daily 7:15 9:45

AN AMERICAN TAIL (G) Daily 7:00 9:00

PEGGY SUE GOT MARRIED (PG-13) Daily 7:35 9:40

CINEMA THREE
315 College Ave. 846-6714

NAME OF THE ROSE (R) Daily 7:05 9:30

STREETS OF GOLD (R) Daily 7:00 9:00

SOUL MAN (R) Daily 7:35 9:45

STREETS OF GOLD

Check PLITT GUIDE for show times

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1500 Harvey Rd. Post Oak Mall #2038 764-0616

CLINT EASTWOOD HEARTBREAK RIDGE

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